(a) whether any request has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for providing electronic exchanges in various towns of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Request for conversion of following exchanges into electronic exchanges has been received from Government of Madhya Pradesh:

Bina, Champa, Maksi, Kawardha, Pawai.

(c) (i) Telephone exchanges at Pawai and Kawardha have already been converted into electronic exchanges during 1990-91 and 1991-92 respectively.

(ii) Manual telephone exchanges at Bina, Champa and Maksi are planned to be converted into electronic exchanges during 1992-93.

[*English*]

Operation of flight on Delhi-Nag Pur-Raipur-Calcutta Sector

5302. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to operate the newly introduced flight between Delhi-Nagpur-Raipur-Calcutta via Bhopal;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No such flight is in operation at present either by Indian Airlines or by Vayudoot. However, Indian Airlines is operating 4 times a week service on Delhi-Nagapur-Raipur-Delhi route,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to capacity contraints it is not possible to operate the service via Bhopal or to extend it to Calcutta.

Loans State Electricity Boards

5303. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the poor financial condition of almost all the Electricity boards in the country, the Electicity Finance Corporation proposes to amend its terms and conditions for providing loans; and

(b) whether in view of the critical financial condition of Electricity Boards, government propose to liberalise the terms and conditions for recovery of loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). No, Sir, there is no such proposal at present under consideration of the Power Finance Coporation/ Government.

Construction of ITDC Hotels in Kerala

5304. SHRI v.s VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ITDC hotels functioing at present in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Governement for setting up more ITDC hotels; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the government propose to set up more ITDC hotels in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) (a) ITDC presently owns & operates one five star hotel at Kovalam beach in Kerala

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise

(d) ITDC's Annual Plan 1992-93 does not include any provision for setting up any new hotel in Kerala

[*Translation*]

De-Reservation of Iron ore Limestone and Manganese in Madhya Pradesh

5305 DR LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA
KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether limestone and iron ore mineral deposits are reserved for Government Undertakings,

(b) the number of iron ore and manganese mines closed in Madhya Pradesh,

(c) if so, since when and the reasons thereof;

(d) the number of workers who have become unemployed as a result thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to privatise these mines; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) (a) No, Sir Many of such deposits are being exploited by private sector

(b) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

[*English*]

Air Regional News Units

5306 SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) the number of regional news units of All India Radio in the country, State-wise,

(b) whether the Government propose to upgrade these units in the State Capitals, and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFROMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) (a) A Statement is enclosed

(b) No, Sir

(c) The existing posts sanctioned for the regional news units, as per prescribed norms, are considered adequate.